

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9783

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CGEN, CT, UN, US

SUBJECT: CAR MISSION DEBTS

REF: BANGUI 443; USUN 948

SUMMARY: UN LEGAL COUNSEL AGREED TO HELP USG IN ITS EFFORTS TO SETTLE CAR MISSION DEBTS. END SUMMARY

1. MISOFFS (ROSENSTOCK AND KELLER) ON APRIL 3 CALLED ON UN LEGAL COUNSEL SUY TO PRESENT HIM WITH AIDE MEMOIRE ON CAR MISSION DEBTS. MISOFFS EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS CONTINUING AND PERNICIOUS PROBLEM WHICH COULD ONLY BE SOLVED BY HIGHEST LEVEL INTERVENTION. WE DREW SUY'S ATTENTION TO STATEMENT THAT CAR CONDUCT INVOLVED VIOLATION OF PRIVILEGES OF RESIDENCE. HE TOOK THE POINT. TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING TO ACT UPON THIS FACT, WE PREFERRED TO BRING THIS MATTER ONCE AGAIN TO ATTENTION OF SYG WITH VIEW TO SEEKING LESS DRAMATIC METHODS.

2. SUY FIRST ASKED IF WE HAD CONSIDERED GOING TO COMMITTEE ON HOST COUNTRY RELATIONS. WE REPLIED THAT WE DID NOT DISCOUNT USE OF COMMITTEE, BUT PREFERRED, IF POSSIBLE, TO FIND METHOD OF AVOIDING HARMFUL PUBLICITY WHICH WOULD ONLY WORK AGAINST INTEREST OF ENTIRE UN COMMUNITY IN NEW YORK.

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3. SUY AGREED TO TAKE SEVERAL STEPS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON OUR REQUEST FOR UN ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER. FIRST, HE WOULD SPEAK TO USYG DJERMAKOYE TO SEE IF HE COULD WORK WITH CAR MISSION IN RESOLVING THIS CONTINUING CRISIS. SECOND, SUY SAID HE WOULD SPEAK TO CHAIRMAN OF AFRICAN GROUP TO SEEK HIS HELP. THIRD, HE WOULD DISCUSS ENTIRE QUESTION WITH SYG WITH SUGGESTION THAT INSTRUCTIONS GO TO RESREP BANGUI TO INTERVENE ON THIS QUESTION. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE LETTER FROM SYG TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON MATTER. SUY AGREED FULLY THAT CONTINUED NON-PAYMENT OF BILLS WAS INTOLERABLE AND THAT SECRETARIAT HAD A ROLE TO PLAY IN SEEKING SOLUTION; HE WAS NON-COMMITTAL ON OUR ARGUMENT THAT ONE EVENTUAL SOLUTION COULD BE FOR REDUCTION OF CAR PRESENCE IN NEW YORK, AIMED AT CUTTING BACK ON MISSION EXPENSES, E.G. COMBINING OFFICE AND RESIDENCE AND REDUCTION OF STAFF.

4. SUBSEQUENTLY SUY INFORMED MISOFFS THAT HE DISCOVERED FARAH (ASUY FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS) PLANNING MEET WITH CAR FONMIN IN DAR-ES-SALAAM. FARAH HAS BEEN BRIEFED BY SUY AND GIVEN COPY OF OUR AIDE MEMOIRE AND HAS PROMISED MAKE POINT IN STRONG TERMS TO CAR FONMIN THAT ACTIONS OF HIS MISSION IN NEW YORK MUST BE REMEDIED AS THEY DISCREDIT CAR, AFRICAN GROUP AND UN IN GENERAL. SUY SAID HE WILL HOLD UP OTHER STEPS PENDING REPORT FROM FARAH BUT IF DEBTS NOT SETTLED IN NEAR FUTURE HE WOULD URGE DJERMAKOYE AND WALDHEIM TO ACT.

5. COMMENT: WE WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY VERY POSITIVE ATTITUDE ADOPTED BY SUY IN RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE AND BELIEVED HE WILL DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO EXERT SOME PRESSURES ON GOCAR TO RESOLVE OR AT LEAST ALLEVIATE CURRENT SITUATION. WE PLAN FOLLOW DEVELOPMENT OF INSTITUTIONALIZED SECRETARIAT ROLE IN THESE SERIOUS CASES.

6. TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE THE SECRETARY GENERAL WILL RECALL THAT ON MARCH 27, 1974, THE UNITED STATES MISSION BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION A SERIOUS PROBLEM CONCERNING THE FAILURE OF THE MISSION OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TO MEET ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS IN NEW YORK CITY. RELUCTANTLY, THE UNITED STATES MISSION MUST AGAIN APPEAL TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO USE HIS GOOD OFFICES BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HERE IN NEW YORK AND THROUGH HIS REPRESENTATIVE IN THE CAPITAL OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, BANGUI, TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC THE SERIOUS NATURE OF ITS CONTINUED AND PERSISTENT FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ELEMENTARY RESPONSIBILITY OF A MEMBER STATE OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO MEET ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. THE CONTINUED DISREGARD OF THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT ONLY INCONSISTENT WITH THE PRIVILEGES OF RESIDENCE, BUT BRINGS

DISCREDIT ON THE ENTIRE UN COMMUNITY.

THE UNITED STATES MISSION ENCLOSES FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL A LISTING OF CERTAIN OUTSTANDING DEBTS OWED BY THE MISSION AND BY MISSION PERSONNEL FROM THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. THESE ARE DEBTS KNOWN TO THE MISSION AND THE LIST IS NOT MEANT TO BE COMPREHENSIVE.

THE UNITED STATES MISSION FEARS THAT THIS PROBLEM OF NON-PAYMENT OF BILLS BY THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC MISSION IS A PERNICIOUS CONDITION WHICH WILL NOT BE SOLVED EASILY. ONLY SOME DRAMATIC APPEAL AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WOULD APPEAR TO BE OF REAL VALUE. CONTINUED FAILURE TO MEET THIS RESPONSIBILITY WOULD APPEAR TO SUGGEST THAT THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC IS NOT TRULY PREPARED TO MAINTAIN ITS MISSION IN NEW YORK UNDER SATISFACTORY CONDITIONS. WHILE IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO SUGGEST TO ALLEVIATE THIS DIFFICULT AND EMBARRASSING SITUATION, ONE POSSIBILITY WOULD BE TO RECOMMEND TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC TO EFFECT CERTAIN ECONOMIES IN THE OPERATION OF ITS NEW YORK MISSION. THIS WOULD PRESUMABLY RELIEVE SOME OF THE FINANCIAL PRESSURES ON THAT GOVERNMENT.

THE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL WOULD BE APPRECIATED. UNQUOTE
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